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ADVERTISER *PAGE AND ROAD*

WRITER

PROGRAM TITLE *WHEEL OF SANTA FOREST SANDERSON (10/04)*

OK

CHICAGO OUTLET *WISN*(*12:00-1:00 PM*)(*APRIL 10, 2004*)(*WEDNESDAY*)

PRODUCTION

ANNOUNCER

ENGINEER

REMARKS

ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers -

ORCHESTRA: QUARTET: DANGER SONG

ANNOUNCER:

One hundred and fifty National Forests, located in 37 States and in the Territories, form in the aggregate a vast public playground and vacation land free and open to everyone in the United States, as well as a treasury of forest resources maintained in the public interest. Under the principle of "multiple use" the U. S. Forest Service administers the National Forest system to provide not only recreation but a continuing supply of growing timber, to protect the watersheds of many important streams and water-power resources, to harbor a considerable share of our remaining wild life, and to furnish summer range for about 75 million head of livestock. — The job of managing the National Forests so that all of these resources are developed and maintained in maximal degree is one of the biggest and most unique public enterprises in the world. And that's the job of Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers.

Well, now too our visit to the Pine Cone Ranger Station. Folks around these parts like to drop into the station of an evening and get Ranger Jim Higgins in telling stories about the Forest Service or describing some of the country's great National Forests. So we're going to listen to him and see what they get our old friend Ranger Jim talking about this time —

BOBBY: Isn't it a beautiful night? I don't think it would be too
 early to sit out here on the porch a while longer. So you, just
 bring me some. How about it, folks?

JIM: Sure. Okay, etc.

VOICE: We'll stay here if you'll tell us a story, Jim.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Story, eh?

MARY: Please, Mr. Robbins. Tell us about some of the National
 Forests you've worked on.

JIM: Hmm --

MARY: Go ahead, Jim -- let's hear it.

JIM: Hmm --

BOBBY: Jim doesn't seem to be very talkative tonight.

JIM: No? (CHUCKLES) I was thinking maybe sometimes I talk too
 much.

MARY: Oh no, Mr. Robbins. We love to hear you talk about the
 National Forests and everything.

JIM: Yes -- Well, let's see, -- How about the Wasatch National Forest? -- That's an interesting Forest

BESS: That's in Utah, isn't it, Jim?

JIM: Yes -- The headquarters are right in Salt Lake City. It's a big Forest -- there's several separate units in it. The one closest to Salt Lake is called the Salt Lake Division, and it runs along the mountain range just east of Salt Lake, from the Weber River south to Provo River. Then there's one unit in the High Uinta (pr. You - in' - nah) Mountains that has some real wild beautiful high country. Beautiful country. And then there's a couple of smaller divisions located over west near Grantsville and Vernon. -- Well, the Wasatch National Forest plays a pretty important part in the life of that section. Nearly two-thirds of the people in the whole state of Utah live near the Wasatch, so the protection of its watersheds and its ranges, and recreational values and all, is especially important. It's contributing to the permanence and stability of the communities around there by keeping the timber growing so there'll always be a steady supply of local wood-using industries, and by regulating the use of the Forest so that the local livestock business can keep on a permanent basis. And it's protecting some of the watersheds where the water comes from that means life itself to the people.

JERRY: Water is a mighty precious thing in a lot of the western country.

JIM: You bet it is.

JOHN: Is there much recreation in the Wasatch National Forest?

JIM: Quite a bit, Neely. I believe they said there were nearly a quarter million people visited the Forest last year. There's a number of pretty canyons right near Salt Lake City -- like Emigration Canyon, Parley's, Big Cottonwood Creek and Little Cottonwood Creek, and Mill Creek --

DEAN: The names suggest the pioneer days, don't they?

JIM: Yes. Then there's American Fork Canyon near Pleasant Grove, that's a popular recreation place. The Forest Service has fixed up some nice picnic grounds and campgrounds in those canyons, with fire-places and tables and benches, and cold running water, and so on. And several of 'em have outdoor amphitheatres, where different groups or clubs can go and have meetings out in the forest, or just go outdoors around a campfire light. The Forest Service is building one now for Aspen Grove that'll have a seating capacity of twenty-five hundred people. It'll be the largest of its kind in the whole region. -- There's a lot of recreation facilities being developed like that, but the Forest Service is careful all the time to leave them natural and not to spoil any of the beauties of nature.

MARK: That's good.

JIM: If you want to see the beauties of nature, though, you'll find some of Utah's finest scenery up in the Mirror Lake region, back up in the Forest. The Pangu River Road that goes up into the Forest east of Kanab, Utah, takes you right into the heart of it. And it's beautiful country, I can tell you. Working around in a lot of the National Forests like I have, I've seen a lot of beautiful country in my day, but I reckon the Mirror Lake region in the Wasatch compares well with any of 'em. -- You know, some of the choicest pieces of scenery in this country of course you'll find in little known out-of-the-way places. Sometimes you'd even have to get a horse and pack off into remote back country to see 'em. And you'll find lots of places like that in the National Forest. Indeed you will, Jim.

JIM: And one place like that is the High Uintas Primitive Area. Part of it's in the Wasatch National Forest, and the main entrance to it is through the Mirror Lake country. But when you enter the area, you're in real wilderness. And the Forest Service has designated it as a primitive area so that it'll be kept that way. It's a beautiful, rugged, high mountain country - there's an abundance of wild life - mountain lion, and mountain sheep and deer are in there. But if you go into the High Uintas, you'll have to be prepared to rough it - to travel with a pack horse, or bike and camp on your own. Of course you can get guides and port horses and pack stock anyway. But it's an ideal retreat for anyone who wants to really take to the wilds.

JERRY: That's a trip I sure want to make some day.

MARY: I want to go too.

JERRY: Maybe we can some day, Mary.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Maybe so -- Well, the old hills of the West have contributed a lot to building up the country, those in Utah. Part of the ties that carried the first railroad into Salt Lake Valley came from the Lodgepole pine forests of the Wasatch. And the tie business still goes on, along with poles and pine props and other products -- only now any cutting there is done under Forest Service supervision, which means that the Forest will keep growing more timber in the place of what's cut -- which means permanent and sustained timber in the region instead of destructive exploitation and depletion. -- There is just west to our great bands of sheep on their summer range, the Wasatch has summer pastured for about 65,000 sheep, along with some eight thousand head of cattle, and the Forest Service cooperates with the sheepmen and cattlemen to protect the range from overgrazing and so that it's used right -- Say, by the way, here's something interesting. There's a range of mountains in Davis County, Utah, between Salt Lake and Ogden, that's not in the National Forest. --

JERRY: Outside the National Forest?

JERRY: That oughta be good news to Davis County

JIM: It sure ought to be. It means that real watershed protection is going to begin there. It means that the vegetation that's needed to help hold the water in the hills and keep it from rushing off in torrents will have a chance to come back. It's going to be a long, tough job building up that watershed again, but a start is being made toward healing a big hole in the face of nature.

JERRY: That's mighty interesting, Jim.

MARY: It certainly is.

JIM: Well, there's lots of interesting things in the Wasatch Forest. -- Let's see, -- the Rangers there took a game census last year that showed five thousand deer in the Forest. As I remember it, there's more than a hundred thousand acres inside the Forest that's designated as game preserves and bird refuges. And there's lots of good fishing. Something like five hundred and seventy miles of streams, and a hundred and fifteen lakes inside the Forest. -- Hm. Speaking of fishing -- (CHUCKLES) reminds me of a game they used to tell about an old-timer that went fishing -- I never knew for sure where it was, but I s'pose it might as well have been in the Wasatch as any other place.

JERRY: What's the story?

JIM

Well - (CHUCKLES) - this old timer went fishin' up along the river, and when he got there he found he'd forgotten to bring any bait. While he sat a-cassin' his luck and wonderin' what to do about it, he spied a little pine snake with a frog in its mouth. So he cut a forked stick and put it over the snake's head and took the frog away from 'im -- Well, he felt sure grateful to the little pine snake for bringin' him some bait, so before he turned him loose he gave the snake a little nip of pain-killer he was carryin' in his pocket against a possible shower. -- Pretty soon the old timer caught a nice big fish, but the fish swallowed the bait, so there he was, out of bait again. Just then he heard a thump, thump, and there it was on the log beside him was the pine snake again, lookin' up at him and waggin' his tail real pleasant-like, and sure as he didn't have another frog in his mouth. -- Well, the old fellow saw his duty, so he gave the snake another back out of the bottle, and the snake went and got another frog. -- Between the old-timer and the snake, pretty soon they finished up the whole bottle, and the old man went home late that afternoon with twenty-seven fish. And they say he and the pine snake were the best of friends ever after.

(FADE OUT)

ANNOUNCER

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